

Why.
General Laws—William Shands, Southampton.
Roads—P. F. St. Clair, Giles.
Finance—H. T. Wickham, Hanover.
Public Institutions and Education—George B. Kezsell, Rockingham.
Counties, Cities and Towns—J. S. Chapman, Greene.
Agriculture—W. A. Garnett, Henry.
Fish and Game—C. Harding Walker, Northumberland.
House chambers.
Elections—James R. Caton, Alexandria.
Courts—R. B. Byrd, Winchester.
General Laws—B. F. Cox, Richmond.
Roads—John W. Churchman, Augusta.
Finance—A. M. Bowman, Salem.
Claims—Thomas H. Lion, Prince William.

Asylums and Prisons—George T. Snead, Princess Anne.
Schools and Colleges—N. B. Early, Gloucester.
Agriculture—J. J. Owen, Prince Edward.
Counties, Cities and Towns—T. D. Jennings, Lynchburg.

A Waste of Oratory.
The sessions yesterday were mainly interesting for the making public of the committee assignments, but a large number of bills and resolutions were presented in the two branches.

In both houses, proceedings under a misapprehension to elect Deon with caucus nominees for judges of the Supreme Court, and at the end, discovered that the elections must take place after February 1, 1906, so it will all have to be gone over again. Volumes of oratory were thus "wasted on the desert air," and these speeches, or others will be heard in the early days of the coming month. Striking measures presented on the house side related to the subject of public education.

A resolution was offered by Mr. Spessard, of Craig, and referred, providing for the abolition of the positions of school examiners and inspectors and Mr. Gwathmey presented a bill to put into effect the single text-book list.

Mr. Glenn, of Richmond, city, offered a measure to repeal the law by which convicts are worked in the Capitol Square, and Mr. Whitehead, of Nelson, presented one increasing the appropriation for Confederate pensions from \$300,000 to \$400,000 annually.

A number of bills were offered in the Senate but not half so many as came in on the House side.

THE SENATE.

Full Attendance and Busy Session—Vote for Judges Too Soon.

Prompt attendance of members again facilitated the work of the Senate, the session beginning promptly at noon with nearly every seat filled, and with a number of visitors upon the floor and in the galleries. The doorkeeper finds great difficulty in enforcing the order excluding the public from the floor.

After the usual preliminaries had been dispatched, the Senate got down to business, received a communication from the Executive announcing recess appointments, and unanimously agreed to a resolution of Mr. Kezsell, of Rockingham, authorizing the clerk to provide out of the contingent fund such additional furniture as may be needed.

Upon motion of Mr. Echols, of Staunton, 12:30 P. M. was fixed as the hour for the election of the Supreme Court Judges. To suit the convenience of the House of Delegates this time was later advanced fifteen minutes.

By Mr. Chapman, of Greene, calling for a joint session of the two houses at 1 P. M. Tuesday of next week for the election of a United States Senator.

Bill Tampered With.

Something of a stir was caused by Mr. Thomas, of Lynchburg, who, rising to a question of personal privilege, indicated that a bill he recently offered had been tampered with and been printed differently from the way in which it was originally offered. Mr. Thomas requested an investigation, and upon his motion the Committee on Printing was instructed to look into the matter.

The bill in question calls for an annual appropriation of \$500,000 for the maintenance of a system of public free schools. The bill was presented by Mr. Thomas. It contained two clauses; as printed it included a third clause providing that the bill should be in force from its passage.

This clause, which, in the language of Mr. Thomas, "killed the entire measure," was deleted by the printer. Mr. Thomas declared sarcastically that he was always willing to hear and consider amendments to his bills, but he claimed the privilege of accepting or rejecting such proposed amendments before they were embraced in his measures.

Assessment of Railroads.

Shortly after this incident Mr. Thomas again took the floor, this time to offer a joint resolution which will in all likelihood cause some interesting developments in connection with the taxation of the railroad properties in the State. The resolution was read and referred to the proper committee. It is as follows:

Whereas, the Department of Commerce and Labor, Bulletin 21, page 8, shows that the commercial value of the railway property devoted to transportation in Virginia is \$211,315,000, and whereas the same bulletin, page 14, shows that this property is assessed for taxation at \$63,269,623; therefore, be it—

Resolved, by the Senate of Virginia (the House of Delegates concurring), That the Corporation Commission be, and the same is hereby, requested to inform the Senate why the difference of \$148,045,377 is not also assessed and made to bear its part of the public burdens.

Supreme Court Judges.

While the chair was vacated for fifteen minutes, the Democratic caucus, with Judge Mann presiding, held a brief session, receiving and adopting the report of the steering committee nominating the standing committee members. Immediately thereafter the Senate received and the committees nominated by the caucus were formally elected. A number of other bills were offered. A joint resolution from Judge Sims, of Louisa, proposed important amendments to sections 20, 21 and 22 of article 2 of the constitution of Virginia, touching the requirements of payment of poll-taxes as a pre-requisite to votes, and providing for the publishing of these

"Berry's for Clothes."



If it's the best fitting coat in Richmond he got it at Berry's.
If it's the best quality in Richmond he got it at Berry's.
If it's the most reasonable in price to be found in Richmond he got it at Berry's.

\$9.75 instead of \$15.
\$12.75 instead of \$20.
\$17.75 instead of \$30.
\$22.75 instead of \$35 and \$40 Suits, same way.



amendments and the certifying of the same to the next General Assembly.

At 12:45 P. M. the Senate and the House, acting separately, but simultaneously began the election of judges of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia. Brief, but eloquent nominating speeches were made. On the Senate side, H. T. Wickham nominated Judge Richard H. Cardwell, of Hanover, for the four year term; Mr. Olson nominated Judge Stafford G. Whitlie, of Henry, for the six-year term; Mr. Plegar nominated Judge John A. Buchanan, of Washington, for the eight-year term; Mr. Machen nominated Judge James Keith, of Fauquier, for the ten-year term, and Mr. Echols nominated Judge George M. Harrison, of Augusta, for the twelve-year term. The roll was called and every member present, Democratic and Republican, voted for the nominees.

Acted in Haste.

While the vote was being canvassed and just before the results were officially announced, a sensation was caused by the discovery that the entire proceeding was null and void.

The clerk of the House of Delegates entered the chamber hurriedly and conferred a few moments with Judge Plegar, the senator from Montgomery, who immediately thereafter called the attention of the Senate to a condition that had been entirely overlooked. The Constitution of Virginia, in section 102, provides that the Supreme Court Judges must be elected before February 1, 1907; the schedule appended to the Constitution declares that they shall assume office on the first day of February "after their election." The mistake was natural, but it involved a year of time, and as it subsequently proved, a lot of worry.

It was manifestly necessary for the election to be postponed until after the first of February, 1906, and the problem of how best the Senate could retrace its steps and undo its work now confronted the members. Two or three solutions of this problem were suggested, and attention was called to the fact that the announcement of the Senate's resolution to go into the election of Supreme Court Judges had been recorded on the journal of the House of Delegates. Senatorial heads were put together, and it was finally Judge Plegar, who had discovered the tangle, who straightened things out again. In a resolution, unanimous consent for the immediate consideration of which was given, Judge Plegar provided that whereas the General Assembly had no right to proceed with the election of Supreme Court Judges until after the 1st of February, 1906, no further steps be taken in this direction until that time, and the proceedings already had for the day on this subject be declared null and void.

This resolution was quickly adopted and communicated to the House of Delegates, which promptly adjourned.

Bills Offered.

By Mr. Noel: To authorize and empower the School Board of Wise county to issue additional bonds to complete and furnish District of Wise county for a public school.

By Mr. Lynn: To provide for the employment of prisoners confined in the jails of the counties and towns of the State upon the public roads.

By Mr. Mann: To amend and re-enact

cause shall be sooner begun a notice indicating the intention of the injured person to ask for damages on account of said cause of action, signed by the party injured, his personal representative or attorney, in which said notice shall set out the cause of action as plainly as may be required in a declaration offered by request.

By Mr. Campbell: To amend and re-enact an act entitled an act to make husband and wife competent witnesses for or against each other in certain civil and criminal cases, approved April 2, 1903.

By Mr. St. Clair: To amend and re-enact section 3467 of the Code of Virginia as heretofore amended.

By Mr. Harman: To authorize the sale of the penitentiary spring lot at Richmond, to provide for the funding and keeping in order the enclosed plat of

land around Lee Monument at Richmond.

HOUSE SESSION.

Great Interest in the Reading of Committee Assignments.

The House was all expectancy over the announcement of its standing committees, when Speaker Cardwell called to order at noon. Rev. John H. Dickinson, of the Church of the Holy Comforter, offered prayer, and the body at once proceeded to business.

Mr. Baker got through a resolution providing for an additional page to take charge of the gallery, and the speaker will announce the appointment shortly.

Mr. Spessard, of Craig, offered the following resolutions, which were referred:

"Resolved, by the General Assembly of Virginia, that the appointment of five district school supervisors by the State Board of Education is unnecessary, entailing as it does a useless expenditure of about ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per year of the school funds of the State, and that the efficiency of the public schools has not been promoted thereby."

"Resolved, further that the State Board of Education is hereby requested to abolish the said offices."

Elected Judges.

The House, in conformity with a joint resolution reported from the Senate, proceeded to the election of the five caucus nominees for the Court of Appeals, and when the elections were over it was discovered that it would all have to be done over again, as the constitution prescribes that the judges shall be chosen after the first day of February.

There was a good deal of eloquence displayed by members representing the various judges, and a number of seconding speeches were made.

The judges were nominated as follows:

Judge Cardwell, by Mr. Gwathmey.

Judge Whitlie, by Mr. Booker.

Judge Buchanan, by Mr. Williams.

Judge Keith, by Mr. Green.

Judge Harrison, by Mr. Churchman.

Mrs. Norman V. Randolph invited the House to attend the delivering of the address of honor at Lee Camp Hall on January 19th, which is Lee-Jackson Day.

Offered and Referred.

The following bills were offered and referred:

By Mr. Withers: To amend and re-enact section 2261 of the Code of Virginia so as to authorize receivers of the estates of married women who are minors to execute bonds before the clerks of courts.

By Mr. Withers: To amend and re-enact sections 2599, 2601, 2602 as amended by an act approved March 15, 1904, providing for the appointment of guardians and curators by courts and clerks thereof.

By Mr. Gill: To amend and re-enact section 122 of an act entitled "An act to amend and re-enact chapter 19 of the Code of Virginia, 1904, providing when voters resident in the State, when and where to be held; regulations for their conduct and government; compensation for services in election."

By R. L. Moncure: To amend and re-enact section 78 of the Code of Virginia, 1904, providing when voters resident in the State, when and where to be held; regulations for their conduct and government; compensation for services in election.

By Mr. Gwathmey: Prescribing time within which erroneous assessment of lands can be corrected.

By Mr. Read: To protect landlords against removal of crops by tenants until rents and advances are satisfied, and to provide a penalty for non-compliance.

By Mr. Royall: To amend and re-enact section 2497 of the Code of Virginia, 1904, providing when voters resident in the State, when and where to be held; regulations for their conduct and government; compensation for services in election.

By Mr. Royall: To provide for the time of election and term of office of the judge of the county courts.

By Mr. Williams: To exempt Confederate soldiers from the payment of capitation taxes.

By Mr. Withers: To amend and re-enact an act entitled "An act to provide for opening new roads and bridges across public roads and bridges of Rockbridge county, approved March 15, 1904, as amended by an act approved January 24, 1905."

By Mr. Holt: To authorize the issuance of \$100,000 of bonds by the city of Newport News for permanent street improvement and to provide what amount shall be expended in each ward.

By Mr. Sale: To create a drainage district in the county of Princess Anne and to confer jurisdiction on the Circuit Court of that county to enforce its provisions.

To provide that no suit or action sounding in damages for personal injuries shall have been filed with the mayor of said city or town, within 30 days next after the cause of action in said suit arose (unless suit on said

cause shall be sooner begun) a notice indicating the intention of the injured person to ask for damages on account of said cause of action, signed by the party injured, his personal representative or attorney, in which said notice shall set out the cause of action as plainly as may be required in a declaration offered by request.

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